

Whenuapai School

14 Airport Road, Auckland
New Zealand



Newsletter – 25 August 2026

Kia ora whānau,

It has been another busy fortnight at Whenuapai School, with plenty happening across both campuses. Our tamariki have been busy with sport, Speech Finals and getting ready for a very exciting Book Week!

Sport and Speech Finals - There has been plenty of sporting action over the past two weeks. Our tamariki who qualified from the recent Senior Cross Country competed at the Northwest Cross Country, showing great determination and sportsmanship.

We have also had teams competing at the Northwest Year 5 & 6 Netball and our Year 3–6 Rippa Rugby Festival. It has been fantastic to see so many students getting involved and representing Whenuapai so proudly.

Our Speech Finals were also held, with some fantastic speeches shared by our finalists. We were incredibly proud of the confidence and preparation shown by all those who took part. Well done!

Book Week - This week we are celebrating Book Week, with lots of fun activities planned across both campuses to celebrate books and reading.

Each day we will have Drop Everything and Read (DEAR), where a bell will signal for everyone to stop, grab a book and read. We will also have daily book quizzes, classroom celebrations, teacher story swaps and mystery readers.

We are also looking forward to our Book Character Dress-Up Day on Thursday. Tamariki and staff are encouraged to come dressed as a favourite book character. Costumes don't need to be elaborate or purchased – creativity is encouraged.

AIMS Games - Coming up in Week 8 is the AIMS Games tournament in Tauranga. We are excited to be sending a fantastic group of Whenuapai students to compete.

We have teams competing in Netball and Basketball, as well as five students taking part in individual sports including Swimming, Badminton, Cross Country and Mountain Biking.

With thousands of students from across Aotearoa taking part, AIMS Games is an amazing experience. We wish all our students the very best and know they will represent Whenuapai with pride and mana.

Coming Up - There is plenty more happening over the coming weeks, including our Playhouse Theatre performances and Junior Cross Country. We look forward to seeing our younger tamariki getting involved and giving it their best.

Teacher Only Day – A reminder that this Friday, 28 August, is a Teacher Only Day. School will be closed for instruction, so please ensure you have made alternative arrangements for your children. sKids will be open for families who require care.

Daffodil Day – On Monday 31 August, we will be supporting Daffodil Day and the Cancer Society with a Yellow Mufti Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear something yellow, whether it is a bright yellow shirt, a daffodil-themed accessory or simply a touch of yellow.

We encourage students to bring a gold coin donation, with all donations supporting the Cancer Society and their work supporting cancer patients and their whānau across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you for your continued support of our school and the many opportunities we are able to provide for our tamariki. We are looking forward to another busy and exciting few weeks at Whenuapai.

Ngā mihi nui,

Adam Cels





Dates for your diary

Mon 24 Aug – Thurs 27 Aug Book Week Thurs – Book Character Parade	26 September – 11 October School Holidays
Friday – 28 August Teacher Only Day – No School	Monday – 12 October First day of Term 4
Monday – 31 August Daffodil Day	Monday – 26 October Labour Day – No School
Wednesday – 2 September Junior Cross Country	Tuesday – 27 October Teacher Only Day – No School
Thursday – 3 September Wheels Day	Wednesday – 28 October NW Badminton - Year 7 & 8
Wednesday – 9 September Walk to School Day	Tuesday – 3 November NW Touch – Year 7&8 Boys
Sun 7 Sept – Fri 11 Sept AIMS Week	Tues 4 and Wed 5 November School Photos
Monday – 14 September Year 7&8 NW Volleyball	Thursday – 5 November NW Touch – Year 7&8 Girls
Wednesday -16 September 6.00pm – School Board Meeting	Wednesday – 11 November NW Cricket – Year 5&6
Friday – 25 September Final day of Term 3	Friday – 18 December Last Day of Term 4

Congratulations to Our Prize Draw Winner!

Congratulations to **Noah J**, our successful winner of the Term 2 donation prize draw! Noah has received his donation back in full.

Thank you to everyone who has paid this year's donation. Your contributions make a real difference and help us provide additional support and opportunities for our students.

Donations help fund additional staff, learning resources, library books, ICT equipment, and subsidised activities and trips.

There will be prize draws at the end of Terms 3 and 4 for families who have paid their donation in full. At the end of Term 4, all families who have made a full or partial donation will also go into the draw for a \$100 grocery voucher.

So, if you haven't paid your donation yet, there's still time to get involved and go in the draw! 💰 🎉

Thank you for your continued support — every contribution makes a difference.

Celebrating Success - Year 4 Lancaster Netball Team – Wider West Champions! 🏐

Congratulations to our fantastic Year 4 Lancaster Netball Team, who have had an incredible season, finishing as the Wider West Netball Grade Champions – unbeaten all season!

The team showed fantastic skill, determination and teamwork throughout the season, consistently supporting one another and giving their best on court. To finish the season without a single loss is an outstanding achievement and a wonderful reflection of the commitment and effort shown by the whole team.

A huge congratulations to all of our Lancaster players on a fantastic season. You should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved!

A special thank you to coach Karleen Matenga for her time, dedication and fantastic coaching throughout the season, and to team manager Kendall Collins for all the organisation and support behind the scenes. Your commitment has helped create such a positive and enjoyable experience for our players.

Ka mau te wehi, Lancasters – Emma, Fleur, Haylee, Indie, Isabella, McKenzie, Rosa and Willow! 🏐 🙌

What an incredible season – we are so proud of you all!

Kākāpō Speech Finals

On Friday, 14th August, we were treated to an incredible showcase of talent at the Kākāpō Speech Finals. Featuring the top two speakers from each Year 5 and Year 6 class, our final contestants took to the stage to present their speeches centered around the inspiring theme, "My roots, my voice, my future."

Each speaker spoke with immense confidence, passion, and pride. A huge thank you goes out to our amazing panel of judges—Miss Tiff, Mrs Robinson, Miss Wichman, and Kellie—who had the tough job of picking the winners from such a impressive lineup. Shout out to all our students who have worked tirelessly to write and present their speeches since the beginning of the term.

Congratulations to all our finalists for sharing their stories and representing their classes so brilliantly!

Our Finalists

Year 5:

1st: Buddy Murch
2nd: Adan Faizan
3rd: Brooke Salter

Year 6:

1st: Han Chen
2nd: Ava Osbourne
3rd: Una Lyons

Overall Winner:

Han Chen



KĀHU SPEECH COMPETITION

We recently enjoyed a wonderful run of speeches! The crowd was completely engaged, learning new things, and walking away with some truly great messages.

Every single speaker should be incredibly proud of themselves. They all did an amazing job, showcasing their talent and hard work, which made for a very challenging decision for our panel. Reyaansh was our finalist who represented Whenuapai School at the NW interschool speech competition.

A special thank you goes out to our wonderful judges: Tiffany Parrent, Alicia Wickman, Kellie Watkinson, and Rebecca Robinson. We appreciate your time and expertise! Congratulations again to all our participants and our top-placing students.

Yr 7
1st - Shamiso Canon
2nd - Aly Shan Noorani
3rd - Vivaan Pai Moogi

Yr 8
1st - Reyaansh Ved
2nd - Chen Yuxin
3rd - Jack Stevens





RIPPA RUGBY *Tournament Day 2*

On Thursday 20th August, our Rippa Rugby team attended the North West Rippa Festival at Moire Park. We played a total of four games throughout the day and each of us had ample opportunities to score tries and work together as a team. Overall a great day was had! Bring on next year!



NORTHWEST NETBALL TOURNAMENT - YEAR 5/6

ON WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST, TWO TEAMS ENTERED THE NORTHWEST NETBALL TOURNAMENT. WE HAD ONE YEAR 5 TEAM AND ONE YEAR 6 TEAM. EACH TEAM PLAYED THEIR HEARTS OUT AND HAD A REALLY GOOD DAY DESPITE THE HARD COMPETITION AND THE COLD RAIN. OUR YEAR 5 TEAM PLAYED THROUGH TO THE FINALS AND CAME 4TH OVERALL. A MASSIVE THANK YOU TO THE PARENTS THAT SUPPORTED ON THE DAY - WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND.





North West Cross Country

Last week, a group of our talented Year 5–8 runners represented Whenuapai School at the North West Cross Country competition, held at the Kumeū Showgrounds. Our students competed against runners from schools across North West Auckland and showed incredible determination, resilience and sportsmanship throughout their races.

We are extremely proud of every student who took part and gave it their absolute best. A special congratulations to the runners who achieved qualifying places and were selected for the North West team! They will compete at the Auckland Interzone Cross Country this Friday, 28 August, once again at the Kumeū Showgrounds.

What an amazing achievement! We wish our qualifying runners the very best for Friday and know they will represent both Whenuapai School and the North West area with pride.

Congratulations to the following students who qualified to compete at the Interzone Cross Country competition.

- Molly Murch (Y7) - 3rd
- Zanneja Murray (Y7) - 10th
- Christian Lee (Y7) - 8th
- Joanna Zhu (Y8) - 8th
- Fletchie Uren (Y8) - 3rd
- Nayten Rawhiti-Wall (Y8) - 6th



TOUGH GUY AND GAL CHALLENGE

We were lining up at Home campus. It was very loud while we waited. I was with my friend Grey and we both agreed that we would run at the mud run together at the same pace. We finally were walking to the bus. I was bursting with excitement when we finally hopped on the bus one by one. I wanted to sit on the window side but Grey wanted to as well so we agreed that I could do it on the way back. We started moving, I kept quiet the whole trip unlike the rest of the bus.



I went through, my whole body was under the mud, my mouth was open! I tried to get out then Grey saw me and helped me get out, it was tough to get out. Then I saw the big wall, I climbed over it and nothing bad happened. Next I saw another one of those puddles, I worked through it with confidence and it clearly paid off. There was another wall but it was slippery, I slipped but then Grey gave me a hand up. After that, I stepped in some mud then I went and crossed the finish line, I was so relieved I went straight to my mum and gave her a high five! I went to the showers and I was lucky that it was a warm shower. There were so many kids that went to the cold showers. I got changed and got some hot chips with Grey to warm up.

When we got back to school we got our medals and got to hang out in the hall to watch a movie. It was a hard day but it paid off because we were proud that we crossed the finish line.

Monday 10 August 2026

By Zayn Mohamed

Room 16



When we arrived, we saw a goat at the front wooden gate and when we walked past it we gave it a little pat on the head, then we headed to the main area. We put our bags down and me and Grey headed to the big truck where they put some loud music on which I personally rate the noise as incredibly loud even though I was standing right next to the speaker. Later on Grey and I got our red rhino name tags. After an hour or so the races started. The blues went first because they were the oldest, then greens, then finally us reds. It was a long distance of running in plains then there were some muddy obstacles we had to jump over. Then there was the untamed uneven muddy puddle it was like 1.2 meters deep in some places it was exactly as I remembered from last time.









Celebrating Success!

Auckland Intermediate School Snowsports Championships 🏆 ❄️
Congratulations to Johnny and Fletcher, who proudly represented Whenuapai School at the recent Auckland Intermediate School Snowsports Championships.

It was a fantastic opportunity for both boys to challenge themselves and enjoy a day competing against other young snowboarders. The competition included two exciting events – Slopestyle, featuring rails, jumps and boxes, followed by a Slalom race where competitors navigated their way around a series of flags.

Johnny had an outstanding day, taking home the silverware with **2nd place in Slopestyle and 3rd place in the Slalom, finishing 2nd overall** in the competition. What a fantastic achievement, Johnny! For Fletcher, competing in his first year of snowboarding, the day was a wonderful opportunity to put his developing skills to the test. He finished **8th in Slopestyle and 9th in the Slalom**, an impressive result for his first-year competing.

Both boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and showed great courage in taking on challenging events. Fletcher particularly enjoyed landing some new jumps he had been working on, while Johnny described the competition as both “nerve-racking and exciting” – a perfect description of the thrill of competitive sport! A huge congratulations to Johnny and Fletcher on their fantastic results. We are incredibly proud of the way you represented Whenuapai School and challenged yourselves throughout the day.

Ka mau te wehi, Johnny and Fletcher!



Library News - A big thank you to Isla K, Amber Y, Khadeejah, Eve S, Ava K, Maree, Nombeko and Kirsty for creating brand new signage for the Graphic Novels collection in the Senior Campus Library – it looks fantastic!



Teacher Only Day **skids** just \$30!

Each day has a unique theme and an array of exciting and engaging activities.
Join us at skids Whenuapai from (8:30am – 3:00pm)



Join us at Skids Whenuapai
For Topsy Turvy
Friday, 28th August

Some of the awesome activities you can expect to see:



Sun and Moon crafts



Abstract Self Portraits



Upside down cupcakes

You can add on our Rise then shine & Stay and Play sessions to extend the day to 7:00 am – 6:00pm



Join us for Fun day!
SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE NOW



WHEELS DAY!

THURSDAY 3RD OF SEPTEMBER
THERE WILL ALSO BE A HELMET
SAFETY CHECK

**WEAR
YOUR
HELMET!**



Big Walk to School day!



Wednesday 9th September

MEET AT WHENUAPAI PARK NEXT
TO PARKHOUSE CAFE

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS ARE
ENCOURAGED TO JOIN!
COME EARLY AND GET A COFFEE!! (PARENTS ONLY)

MEET AT 8:15 AM

ONE WALK = ONE STAMP=ONE POINT



Walk and get a kaihiakitanga
dojo or table points up to your
teachers



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Does your child want to learn to play music?

Would you like in-school lessons with a professional Music Tutor with many years of teaching experience? You can enroll your child in keyboard, guitar, ukulele and drum lessons at Whenuapai School!

We deliver a fun, varied and structured curriculum. Students learn songs in styles ranging from traditional to contemporary during school hours.

For more information on guitar, ukulele, keyboard and drum lessons, contact Paul Barry
paul.barry@musiqhub.co.nz
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McIntosh Dental

Nominations are open now!



Orthodontic Scholarship nominations
close 31 August

\$10,000

SCHOLARSHIP
x2 AVAILABLE

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE
MONDAY 31 AUGUST**

What is the Scholarship?

McIntosh Dental is offering two \$10,000 scholarships toward orthodontic treatment for deserving students at selected West Auckland schools.

Nominate a young achiever, a future leader, or someone whose life could be changed by a brighter, healthier, more confident smile.

How to Nominate

- 1 Know a Year 7–13 student at a participating school.
- 2 Fill out the online nomination form — open now.
- 3 Tell us what makes them amazing — that's it!



**Nominate now,
closes 31 Aug**

Scan the code, or search
McIntosh Dental Scholarship



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